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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
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11 DAVID W. RIDDELL, ) Case No.: 1:21-cv-01065-SAB (PC)  
12 Plaintiff, )  
13 v. ) ORDER DIRECTING CLERK OF COURT TO  
14 OFFICER FRYE, et al., ) RANDOMLY ASSIGN A DISTRICT JUDGE TO  
15 Defendants. ) THIS ACTION  
16 ) FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION  
17 ) RECOMMENDING PLAINTIFF’S MOTION TO  
 ) PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS BE DENIED  
 ) (ECF No. 2)  
 )

18 Plaintiff David W. Riddell is proceeding *pro se* in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C.  
19 § 1983.

20 Plaintiff filed the instant complaint on July 6, 2021, along with a motion to proceed *in forma*  
21 *pauperis*, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Sacramento.  
22 Division. On July 8, 2021, the action was transferred to this Court.

23 **I.**

24 **LEGAL STANDARD**

25 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1) permits a plaintiff to bring a civil action “without prepayment of fees or  
26 security thereof” if the plaintiff submits a financial affidavit that demonstrates the plaintiff’s “is unable  
27 to pay such fees or give security therefor.” A prisoner seeking to bring a civil action must, in addition  
28 to filing an affidavit, “submit a certified copy of the trust fund account statement ... for the 6-month

1 period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint ... obtained from the appropriate official of  
2 each prison at which the prisoner is or was confined.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2).

## 3 II.

### 4 DISCUSSION

5 Plaintiff has filed an application declaring that, due to his poverty, he is unable to pre-pay the  
6 full amount of fees and costs for these proceedings or give security therefor, and that he believes that  
7 he is entitled to the relief sought in his complaint. On July 9, 2021, the Court received a certified  
8 inmate statement report by an officer at High Desert State Prison, where Plaintiff is currently housed.  
9 (ECF No. 7.) The statement provides the activity in Plaintiff's inmate trust account for the entire six-  
10 month period preceding the filing of the complaint. Plaintiff's certified inmate statement report  
11 indicates that he currently has an available sum of \$1,297.21 on account to his credit at High Desert  
12 State Prison. Further, the statement report indicates that, on May 27, 2021, the sum of \$1,400.00 was  
13 deposited to Plaintiff's account. Although the certified trust account statement report indicates that  
14 Plaintiff has an outstanding restitution fine of \$149.44, the available balance in Plaintiff's account  
15 reflects that he can pay the \$402.00 filing fee for this action.

16 Based on the foregoing, the information that Plaintiff has provided to the Court reflects that he  
17 is financially able to pre-pay the entire filing fee to commence this action. Although the Ninth Circuit  
18 Court of Appeals has held that “the filing fee ... should not take the prisoner's last dollar,” Olivares v.  
19 Marshall, 59 F.3d 109, 112 (9th Cir. 1995), in these circumstances, it appears Plaintiff has sufficient  
20 funds to pre-pay the \$402.00 filing fee with money left over. Should Plaintiff have additional  
21 information to provide the Court, or should his available balance change by the time he receives this  
22 order, he may notify the Court. However, the Court has the authority to consider any reasons and  
23 circumstances for any change in Plaintiff's available assets and funds. See also Collier v. Tatum, 722  
24 F.2d 653, 656 (11th Cir. 1983) (district court may consider an unexplained decrease in an inmate's  
25 trust account, or whether an inmate's account has been depleted intentionally to avoid court costs).  
26 Therefore, Plaintiff's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* must be denied. If Plaintiff wishes to  
27 proceed with this action, Plaintiff must pre-pay the \$402.00 filing fee in full.

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**III.**

**ORDER AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Accordingly, it is HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court to randomly assign a Fresno District Judge to this action.

Further, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that:

1. Plaintiff's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, (ECF No. 2), be DENIED; and
2. Plaintiff be ordered to pay the \$402.00 filing fee in full in order to proceed with this action.

These Findings and Recommendations will be submitted to the United States District Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within **fourteen (14)** days after being served with these Findings and Recommendations, Plaintiff may file written objections with the court. The document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations." Plaintiff is advised that the failure to file objections within the specified time may result in the waiver of the "right to challenge the magistrate's factual findings" on appeal. Wilkerson v. Wheeler, 772 F.3d 834, 839 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing Baxter v. Sullivan, 923 F.2d 1391, 1394 (9th Cir. 1991)).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 9, 2021

  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE